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Grover, Wolff Clash On Vietnam, CIA

Two Long Island congressmen yesterday clashed over Vietnam and the CIA, joined in opposing President Johnson's proposed surtax on income and declined to say how they would vote on a resolution censuring Rep. Adam Clayton Powell, Rep. James R. Grover Jr., Babylon Republican, and Rep. Lester L. Wolff, Kensington Democrat, were interviewed on WCBS-TV's "Legislative Hearing."

Grover said he didn't think U.S. use of Army artillery and naval big guns was "a major escalation" of the war. "I don't see much difference between bombing and shelling," he said. "Quantitatively perhaps but not qualitatively."

He said he realized he might sound "hawkish," but he favored mining North Vietnamese seaports.

"I'd have mined Halphong two and a half years ago," he said. "We'd have cut a year off the war and saved lives."

WOLFF SAID such a course might have brought Russia and China into the war.

He said the war can't be won on a military basis, but must be won in the South. "We have to win over the people, North and South," he said. "We're not active enough in pursuit of this so-called 'other war'."

As for Powell, they agreed Congress has a duty to enforce the standards used in judging Powell equally in judging the conduct of all other members.

"We will be derelict if the House does not," Wolff said, "and the charge that the action against Powell was a racist one will be well founded."

GROVER SAID the investigating committee headed by Rep. Emanuel Celler of Brooklyn had been "eminently fair," and he said, in

defense of Powell, that the Harlem Democrat "was every bit a gentleman on the hill in his official duties."

Both refused to say how they would vote Wednesday when a motion to censure Powell comes before the House. They said they hadn't seen the specific resolution, but Grover added that his present "inclination is to support the committee."

The Celler committee recommended Powell be seated but censured, fined and deprived of his seniority.

Wolff disagreed with congressional leaders that there was no need for a congressional investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency in light of recent disclosures the CIA secretly financed American student organizations and other groups.

WHEN THE CIA financed domestic activities, Wolff said, it went beyond "the scope of its mandate." And he called these activities a "Thought police type of campaign."

Grover said he thought the CIA's activities had been important in "counteracting" enemy propaganda.

Grover defended the administration, saying it had any problems raised by the intelligence agency well under control; Wolff flatly disagreed.